

A Comparative Analysis of Auxiliary Verb Constructions in Talyshi, Tati and Kurdish

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims at a comparative analysis of Auxiliary Verb Constructions (AVCs) in Talyshi, Tati and Kurdish, the languages of the Iranian territory of the so-called Caucasus-Caspian region which according to Windfuhr (2009) are located in the ancient Media Atropatene and Media proper and considered as the Median dialects continuing the lost local and regional language of Old Median. This is a typological investigation of auxiliary verbs based on the four cross-linguistic formal patterns of inflection in AVCs which hinge on the notion of headedness to determine and compare the most common inflectional patterns and types of the AVCs in these three languages. The leading questions are thus how do Auxiliary Verb Constructions in the mentioned languages emerge? What functional domains do they express and what are their morphosyntactic properties at the constructional level?

Furthermore, the present contribution will focus on the discussion of the historical semantic process of grammaticalization and auxiliation reflected in the development of AVCs, classifying different typical paths of lexical to functional semantic specialization.

key words: auxiliary verb constructions, inflectional patterns, grammaticalization.